

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2014

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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IOWA, Northeast

(IA-Z008) MITCHELL, (IA-Z009) HOWARD, (IA-Z018) FLOYD, (IA-Z019) CHICKASAW, (IA-Z029) FAYETTE

02/20/14 17:15 CST	0	Blizzard
02/21/14 04:55 CST	0	

Northeast Iowa was hit by the second blizzard of the winter on February 20th and 21st as an area of low pressure tracked from southern Kansas to Lake Superior. This storm system produced 6 to 8 inches of heavy, wet snow that was then blown around by winds gusting as high as 50 mph. The blowing snow created by the winds, caused whiteout conditions, produced severe drifting that closed numerous roads, knocked out the power to thousands of customers from downed power lines and blew down tree branches. Almost all the schools across northeast Iowa were either closed or utilized a delayed start both ahead of the storm on the 20th and after the storm on the 21st. The highest reported snowfall amount was 7.8 inches in St. Ansgar (Mitchell County) and the highest recorded wind speed during the blizzard was 56 mph by the automated weather observing equipment at the Charles City airport (Floyd County).

MINNESOTA, Southeast

(MN-Z088) WINONA

02/20/14 14:30 CST	0	Winter Storm
02/21/14 04:39 CST	0	

(MN-Z079) WABASHA, (MN-Z086) DODGE, (MN-Z087) OLMSTED, (MN-Z094) MOWER, (MN-Z095) FILLMORE

02/20/14 21:34 CST	50K	Blizzard
02/21/14 12:11 CST	0	

Southeast Minnesota was hit by the second blizzard of the winter on February 20th and 21st as an area of low pressure tracked from southern Kansas to Lake Superior. This storm system produced almost a foot of heavy, wet snow that was then blown around by winds gusting as high as 50 mph. Before the heavy snow began falling, a period of sleet occurred during the morning and afternoon of the 20th. One person was killed in an accident on State Highway 42 just northeast of Plainview (Wabasha County) on the icy roads created by the sleet. The blowing snow created by the winds, caused whiteout conditions, produced severe drifting that closed numerous roads, knocked out the power to thousands of customers from downed power lines and blew down tree branches. At least one home in Austin (Mower County) sustained damage when part of a tree covered in the wet, heavy snow fell on it. The extremely poor visibility in the blowing snow prompted Olmsted and Mower Counties to pull their snowplows off the roads by late evening on the 20th. Road conditions deteriorated rapidly after the winds increased with almost 30 cars reported off the roads and several rollovers in the first two hours after the winds picked up. Five rescues had to be made by snowmobile in Olmsted County. In Rochester (Olmsted County), the city bus service was suspended for the first time in 32 years and all flights in and out of the Rochester airport were canceled. Several accidents occurred across Rochester, but only a few minor injuries were reported. The Governor of Minnesota issued an emergency order that allowed the National Guard to help with recovery and sheltering of stranded motorists. Almost all the schools across southeast Minnesota were either closed or utilized a delayed start both ahead of the storm on the 20th and after the storm on the 21st. The highest reported snowfall amount was 10.7 inches east of Spring Valley (Fillmore County) and the highest recorded wind speed during the blizzard was 51 mph by the automated weather observing equipment at the Rochester airport (Olmsted County).

WISCONSIN, Southwest

(WI-Z032) BUFFALO, (WI-Z033) TREMPLEAU, (WI-Z034) JACKSON

02/01/14 00:00 CST	0	Drought
02/25/14 06:00 CST	0	

The severe drought, that had persisted across the northern portions of Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties into the northwest corner of Jackson County, ended in late February. Enough moisture from the snow that fell over the winter was able to work into the ground and began recharging the soil moisture.

(WI-Z044) ADAMS

02/17/14 08:45 CST	0	Heavy Snow
02/17/14 17:45 CST	0	

An area of low pressure moved from western Missouri into lower Michigan on February 17th. The band of heavy snow that fell on the northwest side of the low produced snowfall amounts around 6 inches across the central and eastern portions of Wisconsin. This band

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of heavy snow clipped Adams and Taylor Counties with 5 to 6 inches. The highest reported total was 6.2 inches in Friendship (Adams County).				
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(WI-Z017) TAYLOR, (WI-Z029) CLARK, (WI-Z032) BUFFALO, (WI-Z033) TREMPEALEAU	02/20/14 14:45 CST		7K	Winter Storm
	02/22/14 01:15 CST		0	

Parts of western Wisconsin were hit by heavy snow on February 20th and 21st as an area of low pressure tracked from southern Kansas to Lake Superior. This storm system produced almost a foot of heavy, wet snow that was then blown around by winds gusting as high as 40 mph. The drifting snow created by the winds created very poor driving conditions and closed some roads. One accident occurred between Independence and Whitehall (Trempealeau County) on the poor road conditions that resulted in one person sustaining non-life threatening injuries. Some schools across the region dismissed early on the 20th ahead of the storm and were either closed or utilized a delayed start after the storm on the 21st. The Governor of Wisconsin declared a state of emergency in advance of the storm. The highest reported snowfall amount was 12 inches in Medford (Taylor County).